

REP. BECERRA: “WE CAN DO MUCH BETTER THAN THIS BILL”

WASHINGTON, DC— This evening the House of Representatives voted on the Tax Relief, Unemployment Insurance Reauthorization, and Job Creation Act of 2010 (H.R. 4853). Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, voted against the legislation and made the following remarks on the floor of the House before the vote:

“For more than 200 years, America has worked hard to earn a reputation around the world that when the going gets tough, America gets going.

We could lead in tough times... we could withstand adversity... we were prepared to sacrifice. As our country matured, we were prepared not only to do all those tough things but to do it the right way and we were able to somehow figure out where the sweet spot was for prosperity in America: building the middle class.

The GI bill for our troops... Social Security and Medicare for our seniors... the best universities for our kids.□ As we invested in the middle class our prosperity bloomed.

Fast forward to the Bush recession and the tough times we find ourselves in today. Americans are hanging tough, fighting to hold on to their jobs and their homes. But is everyone in America sharing in the sacrifice?

This proposal gives millionaires \$139,000 in tax breaks each year. On top of that, it gives the 6,600 wealthiest Americans a tax break of \$23 billion.□ But perhaps the most sinister provision of this proposal is the more than \$100 billion that it diverts from the Social Security Trust Fund and borrows from places like China to replace those dollars.

Everyone in America is ready to sacrifice. Everyone in America should be ready to sacrifice. This bill doesn't ask all Americans to sacrifice. The day should come—as the days have come—when all of us are prepared to sacrifice.

This is not the bill, this is not the time, to change America's history of hanging tough. Let us all work together to pull together, to let everyone in the world know that we are prepared to sacrifice . . . that America's wealthy are ready to sacrifice as all Americans trying to hold on to their jobs and homes are prepared to sacrifice.

Let's do this together. We have that reputation. And we know how to do it. Adversity doesn't concern us. Let us pull together. We can do much better than this bill. It's our chance to prove it to America.”